

Statement
Congressman Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S
BLM Listening Session on raising the royalty rates on the Federal Coal Leasing Program
August 20, 2015, 1:00-4:00 pm MST
Farmington, NM: Courtyard Marriott, 560 Scott Avenue, Farmington, NM 87401

Good afternoon. I'm Penny Pew, the District Director & Intergovernmental Affairs liaison for Paul Gosar, the U.S. Representative for Arizona's 4th Congressional District.

Dr. Gosar sends his warm regards, but unfortunately, his schedule prevents him from attending in person. However, he asked me share with you these remarks.

"We are gathered here today so the BLM can hear comments on the agency's misguided proposal to raise the federal coal tax. I am not going to mince words and I hope those of you commenting don't either. This administration is going after your livelihoods and putting our brothers and sisters out of work, so there is no need to be polite.

The Obama Administration's unnatural fixation with destroying the coal industry, killing jobs and driving up electricity prices for hard-working American families continues today. This 5th and final fictitious listening session is a sham. The BLM claims raising the federal coal tax is necessary to "ensure that American taxpayers receive a fair return on the coal resources managed by the federal government on their behalf." What a bunch of baloney.

If this administration was truly concerned about receiving an increased return on federal coal, then it would institute policies that encourage production. Further, if the federal government cared about ensuring a fair return to taxpayers, then it wouldn't give loan guarantees to companies like Solyndra and wouldn't prop up other renewable ventures that are not economically viable.

President Obama and his agency minions are trying to put the coal industry out of business by imposing a flurry of draconian mandates not

based in reality. The EPA's new carbon regulations for coal plants are estimated to kill 226,000 jobs annually and cause a \$50 billion loss to our economy each year. The new Stream Protection Regulation is estimated to kill as many 273,227 mining-related jobs and have an associated economic loss of \$25 billion annually. In April, the U.S. Energy Information Administration reported that nearly 10,000 coal miners lost their jobs in 2013.

The War on Coal is real my friends. Just ask the new dad who was laid off from his \$80,000 + job, or the single mother who has to work 2-3 jobs now just to make ends meet.

Approximately 40% of coal production in the U.S. comes from federal lands. Federal mineral royalty receipts provide important revenues for schools and highways as well as contribute hundreds of millions dollars annually to federal, tribal and state coffers. An increase in the federal coal tax will further discourage production and reduce these royalties. I urge you all to join me in opposing this job-killing new tax. Thank you.